

Processes that form ideophonic vocabulary in Swedish and Finnish comic strips

Rämpyti rämpi! Knäpp! Ping!
Hur expressiva ord och uttryck formas, används och översätts. En jämförande studie av engelska, svenska och finska.

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Grammatik i fokus, Lund University
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Outline

- Introduction
- Some Swedish observations
- Some Finnish observations
- Some translation observations
- Conclusion
- Thanks



Comics language

- Onomatopoeia
- Onomatopoeic sound effects
- Interjections
- Not limited to sounds or interjections
- Ideophones - used performatively
- Focus on word formation of these items in comics



Kellerman, Rocky, 1999

Ideophones

- Vocabulary items that are frequent in use and colourful and descriptive in nature, but which do not fit in the "usual" word classes.
 - Cf. *mimetics* in Japanese and Korean linguistics
- "A vivid representation of an idea in sound. A word, often onomatopoeic, which describes a predicate, qualificative or adverb in respect to manner, colour, sound, smell, action, state or intensity." (Doke, 1935, p 118).

Ideophones

- "Marked words that depict sensory imagery" (Dingemanse, 2012).
 - At the same time: 'conventionalized lexical items with specifiable meanings' (Dingemanse, 2012; 2015).
- Vocabulary items whose role is to 'show rather than tell' (Dingemanse, 2015).
- "Iconic and mimetic performances" (Haiman, 2018)
 - To utter an ideophone is the equivalent to 'speak[ing] the act' or to switching from 'narrating a story to putting on a play' (Haiman, 2018).

Ideophones in comics

Ideophonic items are frequent in comics, where they are used to add dimensions of sound, movement, emotion etc. to static images.

The ideophones are 'performing' sounds, actions and sensations.



Juba. Apua, sängyssäni on sika! 1999

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Juba. Hjälp, jag har en gris i sängen! [Swedish translation] 2005

In comics not only words that are iconic in terms of their meaning (not only the *plask, splash* kind) but also regular referential words that are made iconic by font, or the way they are included in the comics



Juba. Viivi ja Wagner 2: Apua, sängyssäni on sika 1999



Juba. Viivi ja Wagner 5: Kuuraa hiekkaa 2002



Juba. Viivi ja Wagner 2: Apua, sängyssäni on sika 1999



Juba. Viivi ja Wagner 4: Oi, mikä karju 2001



Juba. Viivi ja Wagner 2: Hjälp, jag har en gris i sängen 2005

Language in comics

- Caption boxes
- Bubbles
- In panels / images



Kellerman, Rocky, 1999



Scott & Borgman, Zits, 1998



Kellerman, Rocky, 1999

Dialogue bubbles

- Depictions of bodily sensations
- BRRR...



Kellerman, Rocky, 1999

In images

- Expressing action

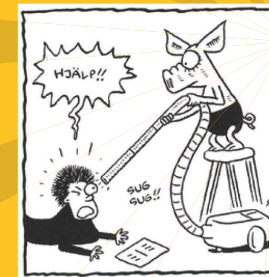


Juba, Viivi ja Wagner 2: Apua, sängyssäni on sika! 1999

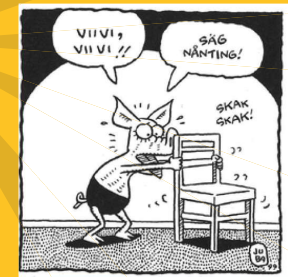


In images

- Expressing action



Juba, Viivi och Wagner 2: Hjälp, jag har en gris i sängen! 2005



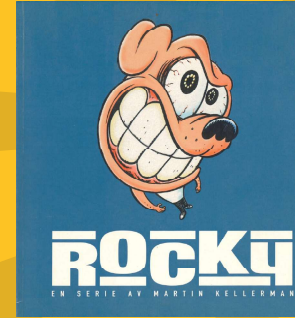
Current focus and aims

- Linguistic material in dialogue bubbles or images
- Finnish and Swedish comics strips
- What types of words do we find?
- What kind of word formation processes appear to be used?
- Some observations about translations.



Kellerman. Rocky. 1999

Swedish and Finnish comics



Kellerman, M. Rocky, vol. 1. 1999



Juba. Viivi ja Wagner 1-5. 1998-2002.

Juba. Viivi och Wagner 1-3. 2005-2006

Type and placement of linguistic material

SVENSKA

- Bubbles vs Images
 - No clear distinction between type of material
- SLAFS (in bubble)
 - But often special marking
- GLUFS (in image)



Kellerman. Rocky. 1999

Word forms (examples)

Images		Bubbles	
Inanimate source	Animate source	"Action"	"Bodily sounds / actions"
GNISSEL	BLINK	GÅSP	BRAM
KAKKRASCH	CRUNCH	HOST (HOST)	FRODOBOLF
PANG	GLUFS	PUST PUST	GLOCKA GLOCKA
PLING PLING	PRROT	SNYFT	RAP
PLING PLÅNG PLING PLING PLÅNG PLING PLÅNG	PURR PURR	STÖN / STÖÖN / STÖÖÖN	SKVAAL
SPLAFF	SMACK	SUCK	SLAFS
SPLORT	SNYFT	"Bodily experience"	SPLADCOORF
SPRAK	UFF	BURR	ULK
STRUM STRUM	ZZZZZ (vary in length)	HUTTER	ULRIK
SWISH			

Sound effects

Sound words (onomatopoeic interjections)
"Nouns" for sounds - used performatively



Kellerman. *Rocky*. 1999

More noun/base forms used in marked form → ideophonized



Kellerman. *Rocky*. 1999

Bodily sensations



Kellerman. *Rocky*. 1999



Kellerman, *Rocky*. 1999

Forms created to iconically mimic sounds

SPLADOOORF
FRODOBOLF
GLOCKA



Kellerman. *Rocky*. 1999

Translation



Kellerman. *Rocky*. 1999

Rocky. [English translation] 2005.

Rocky. [Finnish translation] 2009.

Swedish conclusions

- What types of words do we find?
 - Forms corresponding to existing base forms of nouns (or generated similar forms)
 - Onomatopoeic interjections
- What kind of word formation processes appear to be used?
 - Base forms created through regular pattern from verbs
 - Hosta → host
 - Ulla → ulk
 - Huttra → hutter
 - Novel sound words with iconic dimensions
 - Spladoorf, frodobolf, glocka

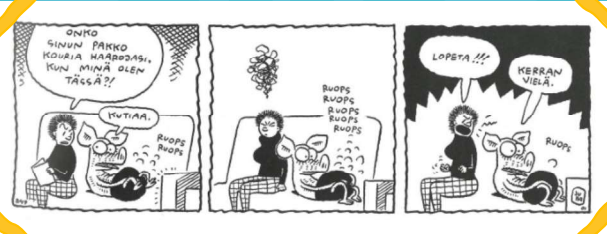


SUOMI

The usual suspects: Typical 'imitative' word(-sized item)s mainly for sound and/or movement



One vs many



Tanemura 2006



Common patterns in Finnish. But.

Jääskeläinen (2015):

- **Monosyllabic**
 - Ending in a vowel *ha ai hau mäu*
- **Bisyllabic**
 - Ending in a consonant *prött, pläts, flump*
- **Trisyllabic**
 - Ending in a vowel
 - Ending in a consonant
 - Various types, 'instructive case' being one of them
 - Often derivations with -#



The 'input'-whatever it is-is already ideophonic in nature...

pälättää, pälinä, päätys
hölöttää, hölinä, hölotys
köpöttää, köpötys
räpyttää, räpytys
mässyttää, mässytys
natustaa, natustus
huljuttaa, huljutus

väristä, värinä, väristys
täristä, tärinä, täristys
järistä, järinä, järistys
jyristä, jyrinä, jyristys
säristä, särinä
märistä, märinä
äristä, ärinä

värin

tärin

#järin

jyrin

#särin

#märin

#ärin

ärin murrin

huljun

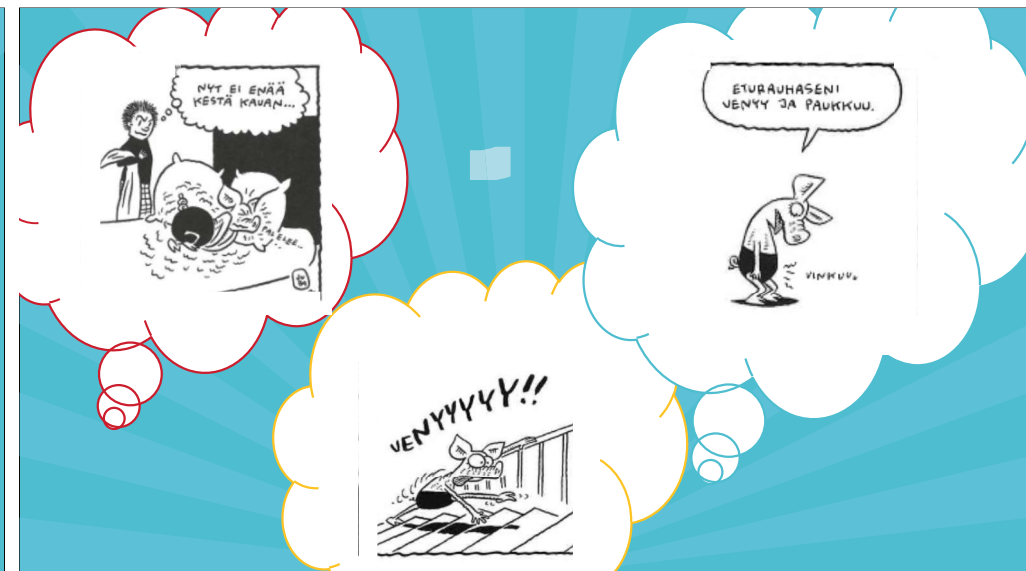
...except that often it isn't.



ommella 'to sow'
ompelu
ommel



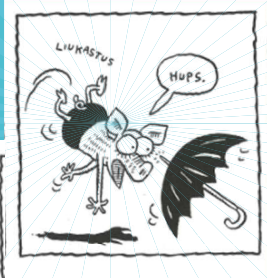
vääntää 'to turn'
väännellä 'to twist and turn'
vääntely



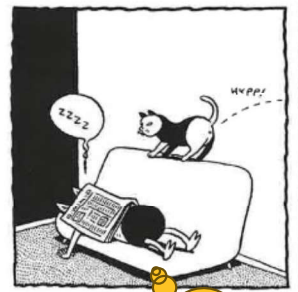


liukastua 'to slip'
liukastus
liukas

liuks?
liukast?

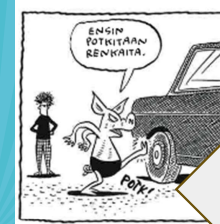


nipistää 'to pinch'
nipistys



hypätä 'to jump'
hyppiä
hyppy

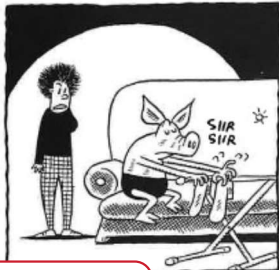
kuiskata 'to whisper'
kuiskaus



potkaista 'to kick'
potkia
potku



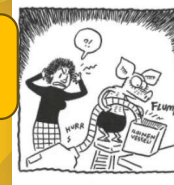
hieroa 'to rub'



siirtää 'to move'
siirto



imuroida 'to vacuum'
imuri

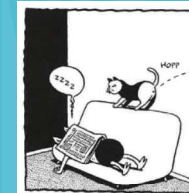
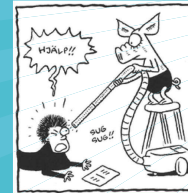
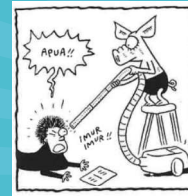


nikkaroida 'snickra'

Translation from Finnish to Swedish - some observations



Translation from Finnish to Swedish - some observations



Translation from Finnish to Swedish - some observations



THANK YOU!



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Comics used



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THANKS

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